

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated May 2, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 2, 2007. The Examiner rejected claims 17-19 and 22-25 under 35 USC § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner further rejected claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-19, and 22-34 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Butler (US Patent No. 6,018,340).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 17 has been amended to recite "computer readable storage media storing," as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 17 is in condition for allowance and requests that the 101 rejection be withdrawn. Claims 18-19 and 22-25 depend from allowable amended claim 17 and, therefore, are also in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1, as amended, recites the limitations of associating a window with a window area and automatically placing the window within the window area in response to a first user input via a first function key.

Butler discloses an operating system subsystem that includes functions to create, move, size, and remove screen objects such as display windows, selection menus appearing in the display windows, graphical icons, and the like. In column 1, lines 59-64 of Butler, the user creates boundaries forming a window area on the computer monitor display (also see Figures 3-4). The user may have several applications running at the same time. However, only a single application can be active at a given time. Therefore, column 14, lines 33-38 explains that the user may alternate between displaying different applications in the window area by simultaneously pressing the ALT key and the TAB key. Butler teaches that this key combination brings up a switching window that contains a list of all applications running concurrently and allows the user to switch to (i.e., activate) a different application by choosing one application from the list.

As the above-description of Butler makes clear, this reference does not teach or suggest the limitations of amended claim 1. For example, amended claim 1 recites that a window area is associated with an application (referred to as a “window” in the pending claims). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner misinterpreted the reference (specifically, window areas A, B, C, and D in Figure 4) by concluding that Butler teaches associating a window area with an application. Rather, as described above, Butler teaches that several applications are associated with each window area. Consequently, Butler cannot teach that an application can be automatically placed within the window area in response to the user providing a first input via a first function key, as also recited in amended claim 1. Butler only teaches that when the user presses a combination of function keys, an intervening switching window appears and only after that can the user choose one application from a list of applications to place in the window area. This functionality is far different from what amended claim 1 recites.

As the foregoing shows, Butler fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of amended claim 1 and, therefore, cannot anticipate this claim. For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance and requests that the 102(b) rejection be withdrawn. Claims 2-3 and 6-9 depend from allowable amended claim 1 and, therefore, are also in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, independent claims 10, 17, 26, and 27 have been amended to reflect limitations similar to those of amended claim 1. Therefore, Butler cannot anticipate these claims either. Thus, amended claims 10, 17, 26, and 27 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1. Claims 11-12, 14-16, 18-19, 22-25, and 28-34 depend from allowable amended claims 10, 17, 26, and 27 and, therefore, are also in condition for allowance.

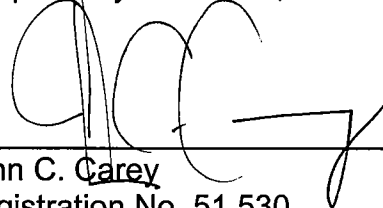
In addition to the foregoing, Applicants present new claims 35-38 for consideration by the Examiner. New claims 35-38 recite the limitation of, in response to a second user input via a second function key, sizing the window to consume only a portion of the window area (see paragraph [0031] of the specification). Applicants believe that no new matter has been introduced by the new claims. Applicants further point out that Butler discusses sizing a particular window only in relation to minimizing and maximizing windows. As is well-known, minimizing the window transforms the

window to a small icon on the bottom of the display. Butler teaches maximizing the window by either enlarging the window so that it occupies the entirety of the monitor space (see column 12, lines 23-27) or by using the last non-minimized location and size of the window area in which to place a maximized window (see column 12, lines 53-55). Again, this functionality is different from sizing a window to occupy only a portion of the window area, as recited in new claims 35-38. For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 35-38 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action dated May 2, 2007 and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Carey
Registration No. 51,530
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant